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DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA: MADAMS/CWRUSER

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FM SFCSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES NIACT IMMEDIATE

STATE 005407

E.C. 12065 N/A

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON SUPPOSED CONTENTS OF USG'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON ARGENTINA

1. AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE STORY, DATED LINE WASHINGTON, JANUARY 7, IS CARRIED ON AFP SPANISH LANGUAGE WIRE AND MAY BE PICKED UP BY ARGENTINE PRESS. STORY CLAIMS THAT "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" HAVE SAID THAT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON ARGENTINA WILL "OFFICIALLY CONDEMN ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON FAILURE TO RESPOND TO NUMEROUS AND INSISTENT DEMANDS FOR PRECISE INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF THOUSANDS OF DISAPPEARED." STORY ALSO STATES THAT "THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ARE BASED ON THE DOCUMENTATION COMPILED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE" AND GOES ON TO SAY THAT IT "IS SIMILAR TO THE REPORT

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WRITTEN BY THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ON THE COUNTRY IN 1979."

2. ARGENTINE EMBASSY HERE WAS MOST DISTURBED BY THE WIRE SERVICE STORY. WE HAVE ASSURED THEM THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO AUTHORIZED STATEMENT AS TO THE CONTENT OF THE REPORT ON

ARGENTINA AND THAT, TO THE CONTRARY, THE REPORT IS NOT YET COMPLETED. FOLLOWING OUR ASSURANCES, ARGENTINE EMBASSY HERE RELEASED A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT "A HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT THIS REPORT HAS BEEN COMPLETED, MUCH LESS THAT ANY OPINIONS ON IT HAVE BEEN FORMED."

3. ACTION REQUESTED: CHARGE SHOULD APPROACH FOREIGN MINISTRY AT A HIGH LEVEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND STRESS THAT THE WIRE SERVICE REPORT IS UNFOUNDED, DRAWING UPON POINTS IN PARA FOUR BELOW.

4. IF THE AFP STORY IS GIVEN COVERAGE IN THE BUENOS AIRES PRESS, EMBASSY SHOULD ISSUE STATEMENT DRAWING AS APPROPRIATE

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full *Decontrol*

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

DECONTROL

USG
report

IAHRC
report

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ON THE TEXT BELOW:

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" HAVE COMMENTED ON A STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ASSESSING HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA?

A: WE WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THIS ALLEGATION IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION. IN FACT, THE REPORT IS NOT YET COMPLETED. THERE HAS BEEN NO AUTHORIZED STATEMENT AS TO THE CONTENTS OF THE DOCUMENT.

Q: WHY IS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PREPARING THIS REPORT?

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A: AS IS WELL KNOWN, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES HAS REQUIRED BY LAW THAT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS BE PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ON ALL NATIONS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS FOR ITS PURPOSES ONCE A YEAR. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO GIVE A BALANCED, FACTUAL, AND IMPARTIAL ACCOUNT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN EACH COUNTRY.

Q: IS THE REPORT NOW IN PREPARATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF

STATE SIMILAR TO A REPORT BY THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN 1979 AND BASED ON DOCUMENTS COMPILED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS?

A: WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET SEEN THE IAHRC REPORT AND COULD NOT HAVE USED IT IN ANY WAY IN THE ON-GOING PREPARATION OF ITS OWN STATEMENT. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S REPORT NOW IN PREPARATION REPRESENTS THE DEPARTMENT'S OWN COMPILATION BASED ON ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION.

5. FULL TEXT OF APP STORY AND APP ACCOUNT OF ARGENTINE EMBASSY STATEMENT FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL. VANCE

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